

**PS 1100: American Government
Dr. Horner
Fall 2013**

Anheuser-Bush Natural Resources Auditorium: MWF, 10:00-10:50

Office: 116 Professional Building
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Office Hours: 10:55-11:55 a.m., M, W, F

Teaching Assistants:

Note: This syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and an updated version of the syllabus will be posted on Blackboard if they occur.

READ THIS SYLLABUS IN ITS ENTIRETY. THIS IS MANDATORY. ON THE FIRST DAY OF WEEK TWO OF CLASS, YOU MUST COME TO CLASS WITH A PAPER WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT PRINTED ON IT, SIGNED BY YOU. IF YOU ARE CONFUSED ABOUT ANYTHING ON THE SYLLABUS, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT ME OR THE TEACHING ASSISTANTS WITH YOUR QUESTIONS BEFORE SIGNING THIS STATEMENT. FAILURE TO DO THIS WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR QUIZ ONE. Cut and paste this statement on a SEPARATE piece of paper, sign it, and turn it in on Monday, August 26:

I _____ have read and understand the contents of syllabus, including, but not limited to, assignments, details about grading, attendance policy, participation policy, and grade challenging policy.

Signature

Requirements:

- I. Attendance – Failure to attend class will result in missing important material. I don't know about you, but I wouldn't trust my friends to get things right in their notes! In other words, I don't take attendance, but I don't give my notes out to students who miss class.
- II. Grades – Your grade in the course will be determined by three non-cumulative exams and one assignment (the Constitutional Scavenger Hunt). There is no final exam in this course.
 - Exam One – Friday, September 13 (worth 25% of your course grade)**
 - Exam Two – Friday, October 18 (worth 25% of your course grade)**
 - Exam Three – Wednesday, December 4 (worth 25% of your course grade)**
 - Constitution Assignment – due IN CLASS (worth 10% of your course grade)**
 - Quizzes – There will be UP TO ten pop quizzes throughout the semester on lecture, reading, and current events (worth 15% of your course grade)**

CHALLENGING GRADES: You are always welcome to visit your teaching assistant's office and look over your exam. If you plan to challenge your grade on any exam, quiz, or assignment, this must be done within two weeks of the day your score is posted on Blackboard. **REMEMBER – IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK BLACKBOARD FOR YOUR GRADES. IF YOU WAIT UNTIL AFTER TWO WEEKS HAVE PASSED FROM WHEN THE SCORES ARE POSTED, YOU ARE OUT OF LUCK.**

MISSED EXAMS: If you miss an exam, you **MUST** have one of the following: A) a note from a doctor proving you were too ill on the day of the exam to take it (Be aware that receipts from the

Student Health Center are not sufficient documentation of a serious illness); or B) a copy of an obituary, in the unfortunate case you have to attend a funeral. The make-up exam you take will be different from the exam taken by the rest of the class and may include essay questions.

*****VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY*****

NO OTHER EXCUSES FOR MISSING AN EXAM WILL BE ACCEPTED. I MEAN THIS. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. WITH A CLASS THIS SIZE, ANY OTHER POLICY IS UNWORKABLE. IF YOU KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO BE UNABLE TO TAKE ONE OF THE SCHEDULED EXAMS, YOU SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER DROPPING THE COURSE, BECAUSE YOU WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO ON THE MISSED EXAM.

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class, or at my office.

To request academic accommodations (for example, a note taker or extended time on exams), students must also register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

A note on recording this class – this is University Policy: University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation under Section 240.040 of the Collected Rules. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Class Disruptions: Repeated talking, texting, or surfing the web on laptops is not acceptable in this class. These actions are distracting to the professor and those around you. Such disruptions harm the learning environment. First and second incidents of texting, talking or surfing the web in class will result in a discussion between the professor and the student(s) involved. Further incidences will result in a **two percentage**

point reduction of the total course grade for each incident the professor – that’s me – deems deserving of such a deduction.

Grades will be assigned as follows –

Below 60	= F
60 and less than 63	= D-
64 and less than 68	= D
68 and less than 70	= D+
70 and less than 73	= C-
74 and less than 78	= C
78 and less than 80	= C+
80 and less than 83	= B-
84 and less than 88	= B
88 and less than 90	= B+
90 and less than 93	= A-
94 and less than 98	= A
Greater than 98	= A+

Please note that there will be **no** “rounding up” of grades. There are no exceptions to this policy, so don’t try to get me to round up when you get your grade. Rounding quickly becomes an arbitrary and unfair process. There will also be no extra credit opportunities, expect those offered in class to everyone.

III. Reading

- A. **Textbooks:** There are TWO required books for this course. The main textbook is *We the People, 9th Essentials Edition* by Ginsberg, Lowi, et al.. This is an e-book. The second book is a reader in American government and politics. It is University of Missouri: Readings in American Government (E-book Edition).
- B. **Current Events:** You are required to read a major newspaper on a daily basis. Current events will be part of each of the three exams, so it would be in your best interest to keep up with U.S. and world events. I recommend newspapers with good coverage of national politics, like *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. The Times and the Post both have good on-line versions. Current events questions will be included on the exams.

Course Structure:

In this course, we will begin with the ENVIRONMENT OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM by examining the political ideologies and theories of democracy that influenced the construction of our nation. We will then discuss the structure of our government, as set up in the Constitution. From there, will move to LINKS between citizens and government. Here, we examine voting, interest groups, and other forms of political participation. Next, we move to the INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT which, in theory, respond to citizen inputs. These include the president, the congress, the bureaucracy, and the courts. Finally, we will end with POLICY.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Section One: The Environment of our System

Week One (Aug. 19, 21, 23)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapter 1

Introduction

What is Politics?

Classical Liberalism in American Politics

Week Two (Aug. 26, 28, 30)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Declaration of Independence (Appendix A1)
U of MO Reader – “Author’s Introduction” by Alexis de Tocqueville

Democratic Theory

The Ideological Origins of American Politics

Week Three (Sept. 4, 6)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapter 2, the Constitution (Appendix B), and Federalist Papers 10 and 51 (Appendix A31)

U of MO Reader – “Slavery and the American Constitution” by Justin Dyer

The Constitution: background (Articles of Confederation); Drafting and Passage of the Constitution; Constitutional Structure

Complete the Constitution assignment (posted on Blackboard)

NO CLASS on Monday – Labor Day!

The Constitution assignment is due IN CLASS on Friday, September 7 – ABSOLUTELY NO ELECTRONIC / E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS OF THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED!

******I strongly recommend typing your answers to the Constitutional Scavenger Hunt and saving a copy on your computer to use in studying for the first exam. If you insist on handwriting your answers, make a copy and save it! You will not get it back before the first exam.******

Week Four (Sept. 9, 11, 13)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapter 3

U of MO Reader – “The Federalist and Anti-Federalist Debates” by Jay Dow, McCulloch v. Maryland, Gibbons v. Ogden, Barron v. Baltimore, and “Comparing and Contrasting the U.S. and Missouri Constitutions” by Marvin Overby, Federalist 39 (You can find this on-line. Just Google it!)

Federalism: An Introduction

Federal/State Relations

Please Note: Exam One is in class on Friday, September 13

Section Two: Links between the Government and the Governed

Week Five (Sept. 16, 18, 20)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapter 5

U of MO Reader – pages “Public Opinion and the Death Penalty,” by Petrocik and

“Bowling Alone,” by Putnam

Public Opinion and Polling

Political Participation

Week Six (Sept. 23, 25, 27)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapter 7

Political Parties: History, Party ID, Structure, Functions, How they are unique in the U.S.

Week Seven (Sept. 30, 2, 4)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapter 7

U of MO Reader – “Syllabus: Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission,”

and “What Does an Election Tell You?” by John Petrocik

Campaigns

Campaign Finance Reform

Week Eight (Oct. 7, 9, 11)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapter 6

The Media

Week Nine (Oct. 14, 16, 18)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapter 8

U of MO Reader – “The Logic of Collective Action,” by Olson; “Bias in the Pressure System” by Schattschneider; and “Legislative Lobbying in Missouri,” by Endersby and Horner
Interest Groups

Exam Two is in class on Friday, October 18

Section Three: Institutions and Issues

Week Ten (October 21, 23, 25)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapter 9
U of MO Reader – “Congress – the Electoral Connection,” by Mayhew
Congress

Week Eleven (October 28, 30, Nov. 1)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapters 10 and 11
U of MO Reader – “The Power to Persuade,” by Neustadt and “Bureaucracy and the Public Interest,” by Wilson
Presidency
Bureaucracy

Week Twelve (Nov. 4, 6, 8)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapters 4 and 12
U of MO Reader – “History of Merit Selection,” by Commission on Judicial

Independence

The Courts
Civil Liberties

Week Thirteen (Nov. 11, 13, 15)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapter 4
U of MO Reader – Cases to be assigned – ASK ME!

Civil Liberties
Civil Rights

Week Fifteen (Nov. 18, 20, 22)

Reading: Ginsberg and Lowi – Chapters 13 and 14
Domestic Policy
Foreign Policy

Week Sixteen (Nov. 25, 27, 29)

NO CLASS – Happy Thanksgiving!

Week Seventeen (Dec. 2, 4)

Wrapping Up
Exam Three is in class on Wednesday, Dec. 4